

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA:RCGRAHAM:DEH
APPROVED BY ARA/ECA:RWZIMMERMANN
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183946

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PA

SUBJECT: JACK ANDERSON ARTICLE ON LAINO CASE

REF: STATE 181637

1. THE JACK ANDERSON COLUMN IN THE WASHINGTON POST ON
JULY 20 WAS DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE LAINO CASE. IT
IS BEING TRANSMITTED TO THE EMBASSY VIA THE WIRELESS FILE.

2. WE HAD BEEN ADVISED LATE IN THE AFTERNOON OF
JULY 19 THAT THE ARTICLE COULD BE EXPECTED. TWELVE
REPRESENTATIVES OF HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS PARTICIPATED IN
THE JULY 18 MEETING MENTIONED IN THE REFTEL. THE MEETING
WAS PRESIDED OVER BY PROFESSOR RICHARD WHITE. THE GEN-
ERAL CONSENSUS OF THE MEETING WAS THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS
GROUPS SHOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE A PUBLIC POSITION OF
CONTRADICTING WHATEVER CHARGES THE GOP LODGE AGAINST
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DOMINGO LAINO.

3. SOME DISSENTED FROM THIS POSITION, BELIEVING THAT
SUCH A POSTURE WOULD PROVIDE THE EVIDENCE WHICH THE GOP
DOES NOT NOW HAVE ON WHICH TO BASE A NEW CASE. THEY
BELIEVE THE LACK OF HARD EVIDENCE OF ALLEGED ASSOCIATION
WITH "LEFTIST GROUPS" IS THE REASON THE GOP

HAS RESURRECTED THE FEBRERISTA CASE ON WHICH TO BASE CHARGES AGAINST LAINO. BY DENYING THAT LAINO HAS CONNECTIONS WITH THE EXTREME LEFT, THE DISSENTERS BELIEVE THAT THE GROUPS ATTEMPTING TO HELP HIM WILL BE "PLAYING BRER RABBIT TO THE GOP TAR BABY."

4. THEY PREDICTED THAT THE NEXT ACTION BY THE INTERESTED HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS WOULD BE A JACK ANDERSON ARTICLE, WHICH WAS OBVIOUSLY ALREADY PREPARED.

5. NEW PRESS GUIDANCE HAS BEEN PREPARED AS A RESULT OF THE ARTICLE, AND THE ANTICIPATED LARGE VOLUME OF LETTERS THAT WILL RESULT. IT WILL BE FORWARDED WHEN CLEARED IN THE DEPARTMENT. WE WOULD APPRECIATE AN UPDATE ON THE SUBJECT OF HIS LEGAL REPRESENTATION. WAS HIS LAWYER RETAINED BY THE FAMILY OR COURT APPOINTED? HAS THE LAWYER HAD ACCESS TO LAINO? CONCERNING THE COMMENT IN THE ANDERSON ARTICLE THAT LAINO IS "AWAITING YEARS IN PRISON OR PERHAPS A FIRING SQUAD ON TRUMPED-UP CHARGES", WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM PENALTY SHOULD LAINO BE CONVICTED? WE REALIZE THAT THIS WOULD DEPEND UPON THE FINAL CHARGES LODGED, BUT DOES THE DEATH PENALTY EXIST? THE "FIRING SQUAD" ANGLE IS CERTAIN TO GENERATE LETTERS OF PROTEST. CHRISTOPHER

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